(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2316.

Fisheries.

Purchase of fishing trawler.

*2302 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: With reference to the answer given to my question No. 1674 on 19th March 1926, regarding the purchase of the fishing trawler, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the fishing trawler in question has arrived in India;

(b) its dimensions, conditions, uses to which it can be put and when it can be set to work;

(c) its total cost up to date;

(d) the cost of setting it for its use in India; and

(e) what the working staff will be and what the approximate annual recurring cost beginning with this year?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The dimensions of the vessel are—

Length from the forepart of the stem under the bowsprit to the aft side of the head	125	feet.
Breadth	23·50	„
Depth	14·42	„
Round of beam	0·58	„
Length of the engine room	33·0	„
Register tonnage	177·44	

The vessel is intended for the conduct of deep sea fishing experiments. It can, however, be used for the following purposes when not actually engaged on that work:—

(1) Research as regards shoals of fish, migrations of fish, etc.

(2) Towing pearl-fishing boats to pearl banks on occasions of pearl fisheries.

(3) Supplying fish to all the fish-curing yards on both the coasts of the Presidency.

(4) Transport of salt to the fish curing yards on the West Coast from Tuticorin.

The vessel can probably be set to work in September next. The trawl and seine net gear have to be refitted and the vessel has to be provided with a laboratory room and some well-ventilated cabins before she could be commissioned for deep sea fishing and research.

(c) Rs. 1,04,453.

(d) Estimates are under preparation.

(e) The question of staff is still under consideration. The annual running expenses of the trawler are estimated at Rs. 43,700.

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 96 infra.